

**THE MORPHOLOGY OF HUMAN BLOOD CELLS**—L. W. Diggs, M.A., M.D., Professor of Medicine and Director of Medical Laboratories, University of Tennessee; Dorothy Sturm, Instructor, Memphis Academy of Arts; and Ann Bell, B.A., Instructor in Medicine, University of Tennessee. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1956. 181 pages, 31 color plates, 54 figures, \$12.00.

This book is in two sections. The first is a series of 30 pages of color illustrations, and the second is a hundred pages of text, black and white and color illustrations, diagrams and photographs. The newly adopted hematologic nomenclature is employed together with common synonyms.

The water color illustrations by Dorothy Sturm are very good. They were originally published by the Abbott Laboratories in *What's New* and later as a monograph. One of the best features is the section with plates and text on the fixed tissue cells of the bone marrow and miscellaneous pathologic cells. This material is hard to find elsewhere in one volume.

The main defect (as in photomicrography) is in reproducing nuclear detail. The nucleus of the hypochromic microcytic rubriblast looks more like a P.A. type than the one illustrated. The nuclei of the monocytic series appear diagrammatic and are not too good. The test of a good picture is its being identified without recourse to the text. There is no atlas, photographic or otherwise, which meets this test. Despite any shortcomings of the illustrations, with the use of the text, one gets as good an idea of morphology from this book as is available from the printed page.

The text is complete but very readable. There is a small section on technique. The beginner may take encouragement in learning that every cell cannot be classified, and one must frequently identify a cell by the company it keeps.

The book is printed on fine quality paper and the workmanship is excellent. The pages are bound in metal rings so that the book opens flat.

Of the atlases and books on morphology of blood cells published in the past decade, this is one of the best. It will find great favor with medical students, laboratory technicians, general physicians, pathologists and hematologists. It is highly recommended.

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**ORGANIZED HOME MEDICAL CARE IN NEW YORK CITY**—A Study of Nineteen Programs by the Hospital Council of Greater New York. Published for the Commonwealth Fund, by Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1956. 538 pages, \$8.00.

This work is an evaluation of the organized plans existing in New York City for extending comprehensive medical care to the long-term patient in his home. The volume reports in full a study of the nineteen experimental plans in New York City by the Hospital Council of Greater New York City. The report points out that the patient with chronic illness is often beset by social, economic, emotional and domestic problems and that, to the patient, these problems may be as great as the illness itself. To provide comprehensive medical care to patients with such complex problems requires a dynamic plan of management with the home, the outpatient department, the hospital and other institutions being utilized when specifically indicated. Home care, therefore, is actually only one modality to be employed when appropriate for those patients whose care is better provided in his familiar home surroundings. It is not a substitute for hospital care nor is its purpose to reduce hospital bed occupancy. As an additional facility, it broadens the scope of available medical services in a community.

The report analyzes the kinds of patients served by home care programs, their diagnoses, and even their comments on the services rendered. It compares the different programs and considers in detail the problems of personnel and ad-

ministration, the relation of home care to hospital care, and the costs involved. It sets forth the recommendations of the Hospital Council for a complete home care program as well as specific plans for a more complete home care plan for New York City.

This book will serve as a valuable reference and resource book for those interested in this subject. The recommendations as well as the data contained in the volume will be of great interest to all of those who are concerned with the planning, organization or administration of home care programs throughout the country.

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**A MANUAL OF THE COMMON CONTAGIOUS DISEASES—Fifth Edition, Thoroughly Revised**—Philip Moen Stimson, A.B., M.D., Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Cornell University Medical College; and Horace Louis Hodes, A.B., M.D., Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1956. 624 pages, 84 illustrations and 10 plates, 8 in color, \$8.50.

This book will be of great value to any physician who must concern himself with the care of communicable disease. The relative infrequency of many of these diseases at the present time, especially in hospital practice, makes it necessary for much of the instruction of medical students to be largely didactic and for the average physician to depend on a minimum of personal experience. The breadth of their own experience in this field has enabled the authors to present vivid descriptions of these entities in a most informative manner.

Diagnostic criteria, differential diagnosis, essential laboratory procedures, and details of management are presented with admirable clarity and readability. The information is explicit without being dogmatic. There is the refreshing absence of carry-over of traditional concepts which are so frequently carried on from one text to another.

Details of laboratory advances in this field—virology, bacteriology, serology and pathology—are up to date to the very moment of publication.

The discussion of therapeutic preparations, vaccines, serums, antibiotics, corticosteroids will be extremely useful beyond the scope of the purely contact infections. The writers have not hesitated to abandon methods of treatment which they believe to be of little practical or theoretical value simply because these may have been endlessly proposed in the past.

Suggestions for the management of these diseases in the general hospital, the communicable disease unit, and in the home are of great practical value and in many respects depart from many of the meaningless and cumbersome methods sometimes proposed and which fail because of their very intricacy of performance.

Scarlet fever is discussed in combination with the streptococcal diseases, the meningitides are dealt with as a group, poliomyelitis is detailed in a manner which is astonishing in so small a volume.

This book has a place in every hospital library as well as in the hands of every physician who has any interest in the subject matters.

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**PROPRIOCEPTIVE NEUROMUSCULAR FACILITATION—Patterns and Techniques**—Margaret Knott, B.S., Head Physical Therapist; and Dorothy E. Boss, B.Ed., Assistant Head Physical Therapist, California Rehabilitation Center, Vallejo. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., 49 East 33rd Street, New York 16, N. Y., 1956. 135 pages, \$5.50.

This is essentially a technical manual for physical therapists. As such it seems quite competently written with explicit directions for a variety of exercises. The neurophysiological concepts on which the rationale of these exercises is supposed to be based cannot claim universal or even general acceptance, but this does not detract from the practical value of the book for the physical therapy technician.